

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03589 140943Z

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SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY OPPOSITION LEADER MAVROS ON A U.S.-GREEK
AGREEMENT AND OTHER RELATED STATEMENTS

1. GEORGE MAVROS, THE LEADER OF THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC
CENTER, THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY, ISSUED THE FOLLOWING
STATEMENT ON APRIL 13 WHICH IS CARRIED IN ALL THE MORNING
NEWSPAPERS OF APRIL 14 AND ON RADIO NEWSCASTS (ENGLISH TEXT
AS REPORTED IN THE ATHENS NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN)

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S SUDDEN DEPARTURE
FOR THE U.S. FOR TALKS AND THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT
THAT WOULD BE IDENTICAL OR SIMILAR TO THE U.S.-TURKISH
AGREEMENT IS CAUSING WIDESPREAD CONCERN AMONG PUBLIC OPINION.
ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE DATA, NO GUARANTEE WHATSOEVER IS TO
BE GIVEN ON THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE COUNTRY
AND ITS PROTECTION FROM ATTACK. THE U.S.-TURKISH AGREEMENT
DOES NOT INCLUDE OR PROVIDE THAT THE ARMS WHICH ARE TO BE
GRANTED TO TURKEY MAY NOT BE USED AGAINST GREECE. IN SUCH
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 03589 140943Z

CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO ENSURE EITHER

EQUAL OR SIMILAR TREATMENT WITH TURKEY ON THE PART OF THE U.S. IS HARMFUL TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

3. GREECE AND TURKEY CANNOT BE EQUATED IN ANY MANNER. TURKEY HAS COMMITTED AN AGGRESSION AGAINST CYPRUS WHICH HAS BEEN CONDEMNED BY ALL INTERNATIONAL BODIES, AND, SINCE THE CYPRUS ADVENTURE, HAS DAILY CAST THREATS AGAINST GREECE. IF WE WERE TO ACCEPT THAT GREECE WOULD BE EQUATED WITH TURKEY, WE WOULD ESSENTIALLY BE GRANTING TURKEY AMNESTY FOR ALL SHE COMMITTED AGAINST CYPRUS AND IS THREATENING TO DO AGAINST GREECE. GREECE SHOULD REQUEST THAT NO MILITARY AID BE GIVEN TO TURKEY

4. THE CLAIM THAT WHETHER OR NOT THE U.S. SHOULD GRANT MILITARY AID IS AN INTERNAL MATTER FOR AMERICA IS A TREMENDOUS ERROR. NO COUNTRY HAS THE RIGHT TO SUPPLY ARMS THAT WOULD BE USED FOR AGGRESSION ALREADY CONDEMNED BY THE U.N. THIS IS PROHIBITED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND FURTHERMORE, FROM THE STANDPOINT OF DOMESTIC LEGISLATION OF THE U.S., IT MEANS IN ESSENCE THE FINAL LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY, AND THEREFORE, REMOVAL OF THE ONLY MEANS OF PRESSURE FOR SOLVING THE CYPRUS ISSUE AND ENDING THREATS IN THE AEGEAN. THE POSSIBILITIES OF CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE U.S.-TURKISH AGREEMENT ARE VERY SLIM, AND COULD BE REMOVED. THE CONCLUSION OR PLEDGE OF CONCLUSION OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT WITH GREECE IS A MANEUVER BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT SUCH A POSSIBILITY AND SUCCEED IN ACHIEVING SIMULTANEOUS APPROVAL OF THE TURKISH AND GREEK AGREEMENTS BY CONGRESS. TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES MENTIONED CHARACTERISTICALLY DR. KISSINGER'S STATEMENT IN NEW YORK THAT HE HOPED CONGRESS WOULD APPROVE THE TURKISH AGREEMENT, ALL THE MORE SO BECAUSE HE WAS PREPARING A CONCURRENT AGREEMENT WITH GREECE AND NEGOTIATIONS WERE BEING HELD AT THAT MOMENT WITH THE GREEKS

5. WHAT GREECE NEEDS IS THAT MILITARY AID SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED TO A COUNTRY THAT WOULD USE IT FOR AGGRESSIVE AIMS, AND THAT NO ARMS WORTH THOUSANDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO TURKEY, WHILE ALLOWING US TO PURCHASE ARMAMENTS FOR A SIMILAR SUM

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 03589 140943Z

6. THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD INFORM PARLIAMENT ON THIS MOST GRAVE NATIONAL ISSUE, AND HEAR THE VIEW OF THE OPPOSITION PRIOR TO UNDERTAKING ANY COMMITMENT IN WASHINGTON. INFORMING PARLIAMENT AFTER CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT WOULD SERVE NO PURPOSE. FIRST, BECAUSE EVERYTHING THAT WOULD BE DONE IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE KNOWN TO THE WHOLE WORLD THROUGH THE PRESS, AND SECOND, BECAUSE SUBSEQUENT CRITICISM OR VIEWS STATED ON ACCOMPLISHED FACTS SERVE NO PURPOSE.

7. I HOPE THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BRING THE MATTER BEFORE PARLIAMENT PRIOR TO CONCLUDING ANY AGREEMENT, OR UNDERTAKING TO BIND THE NATION IN ANY MANNER UNTIL PARLIAMENT IS INFORMED, AND THROUGH IT THE PEOPLE. END TEXT.

8. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN REPLY TO MR MAVROS: BEGIN TEXT. THE GOVERNMENT ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION DIFFERS ENTIRELY FROM THAT OF MR MAVROS BOTH ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE AND OF PROCEDURE. IT HAS THE OBLIGATION TO DEFEND THE NATIONAL INTEREST IN A COOL AND FIRM MANNER, BY UNDERTAKING POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DIFFICULT HANDLING DEMANDED BY CIRCUMSTANCES.

9. BESIDES, THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE CONCERN VOICED BY THE LEADER OF THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER IS NOT JUSTIFIED. IN THE COURSE OF THE TALKS WHICH ARE BEING CARRIED OUT, THE GENERAL LINES OF A FRAMEWORK-AGREEMENT WILL BE DEFINED. NEGOTIATIONS WILL FOLLOW ON THESE LINES, FOR ELABORATION OF A FINAL AGREEMENT WHICH, WHEN SIGNED, WILL BE INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT FOR RATIFICATION. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, AS ALREADY STATED, THE GOVERNMENT WILL INFORM PARLIAMENT BY THE END OF THE WEEK ON THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BEING HELD. END TEXT.

10. IN ADDITION THE PANHELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (PASOK) ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT YESTERDAY: "WE ARE WAITING FOR THE DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT. UNTIL THEN, PASOK HAS NOTHING TO ADD TO THE POSITIONS IT HAS VERY CLEARLY STATED ON THE CONTENT OF AN INDEPENDENT GREEK FOREIGN POLICY. IT HAS ALSO DESCRIBED THE WHOLE EFFORT TO DRAW PROMISES AND ASSISTANCE FROM THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DICTATORSHIP AND THE RAPE OF CYPRUS AS A POLICY OF CONCESSIONS AND COMPROMISES WHICH ENDANGERS NOT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 ATHENS 03589 140943Z

ONLY OUR INDEPENDENCE BUT ALSO OUR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY."

11. THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT (EDA), THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR (KKE-INTERIOR), AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR (KKE-EXTERIOR) ALL ALSO ISSUED STATEMENTS ON THE SUBJECT. EDA PRESIDENT ILIOU REFERRED TO THE CONCERN PREVAILING IN CONNECTION WITH THE AGREEMENT FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS IS ABOUT TO CONCLUDE IN WASHINGTON AND STATES " I CONSIDER IT UNACCEPTABLE THAT THE PARLIAMENT AND THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE PRESENTED WITH ACCOMPLISHED FACTS... THERE MUST BE DISCUSSION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MATTER IN THE PARLIAMENT IN ADVANCE..." THE KKE-INTERIOR STATEMENT INDICATED THE GREEK PEOPLE WOULD OPPOSE ANY DECISIONS WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO ITS DEMAND THAT GREEK NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY BE ASSURED. THE KKE-INTERIOR ALSO CALLED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO INFORM THE PARLIAMENT BEFORE IT ASSUMES

ANY OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER.

12. THE KKE-EXTERIOR STATEMENT ASSERTS THAT ANY AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. AIMED AT "RESTORING THE BALANCE OF POWER" IN THE AEGEAN AND PROVIDING FOR SO-CALLED GUARANTEES BY THE "AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS" DOES NOT CHANGE THINGS IN ANY WAY. WHAT AN AGREEMENT WILL DO, ACCORDING TO THE KKE-EXTERIOR, IS TO RECOGNIZE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AS THE ARBITRATOR OF AFFAIRS IN THIS AREA. "THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT PERSISTS IN A POLICY OF ATLANTICISM AND THIS POLICY HAS LED OUR COUNTRY TO CATASTROPHES AND HUMILIATIONS."
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